

hydroxyethyl cellulose (HEC), hydroxypropyl cellulose (HPC), methyl cellulose, ethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose and sodium carboxymethyl cellulose (NaCMC); starch derivatives such as moderately cross-linked starch; acrylic polymers such as carbomer and its derivatives (Polycarbophyl, Carbopol®, etc.); polyethylene oxide (PEO); chitosan (poly-(D-glucosamine)); natural polymers such as gelatin, sodium alginate, pectin; scleroglucan; xanthan gum; guar gum; poly co-(methylvinyl ether/maleic anhydride); and crosscaramellose. Combinations of two or more bio/mucoadhesive polymers can also be used. More generally, any physiologically acceptable agent showing bio/mucoadhesive characteristics may be used successfully to be incorporated in the carrier.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 3 as follows:

3. (twice amended) A composition according to claim 1, comprising from 0.05 to 5 weight percent of fentanyl.

Amend claim 5 as follows:

5. (twice amended) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the mean sieve diameter of the carrier particles is less than 750 μm .